



The Columns



DEPARTING PRESIDENT

NEW WEBSITE DESIGN

New Website! By the time The Columns goes to press, Forest Hill's new website should be up and running. Please check it out at www.foresthillsindy.org. Also, if you previously registered for the online forum (available through the website), you'll need to register again. It's a great chance to discuss a wide range of neighborhood topics in an easy-to-read, easy-to-write format. A few neighbors post so often that you almost don't need to read the paper anymore! More importantly, it's a wonderful place to give and receive information.

NEW HEAD BLOCK CAPTAIN

Attention Block Captains! We have a new "Head" Block Captain--THANK YOU TERRI VAHEY!

If you have a new neighbor move in, contact Terri and she'll bring you a New Neighbor Packet. Terri will also be delivering The Columns to your house so you may distribute them to your neighbors. Please let her know if you're planning on being gone for extended periods of time or vacations so they are not left hanging on your door. You can just arrange for a neighbor to help you out while you're gone and Terri can take them to their house. She can be reached at 255.2628 or gammagirl@earthlink.net.

Jody and Jason French will be moving to San Francisco for job relocation. We wish to thank Jody for her impressive work on the FHNA Board and for being our President this past year. She has worked tirelessly with the Department of Public Works regarding road repair & safety on our streets. She single-handedly organized last year's tax meetings to educate neighbors on their options and on how to fight major increases. Jody arranged for representatives to attend our meetings from the mayor's office, city-county council and the state senate. Both Jody and Jason have done so much to volunteer their time for neighborhood events, including a progressive dinner, the Halloween party, Summer Picnic, neighborhood playgroup, time spent on the Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association Board of Directors, and cooking for new mothers, to name just a few. Not to mention that they have lived here only 2 1/2 years! The French's are wonderful neighbors who will be missed terribly. We cannot thank you guys enough and we wish you the best in your new adventure!

Beth Olson has graciously agreed to fill Jody's post until the term expires. She can be reached at jeffandbeth1@sbcglobal.net or 259.7540. FHNA Board openings occur every year, and nominees are voted in at the Annual Meeting in June. Please keep

your thoughts open for anyone who might be willing to join the neighborhood board this summer, perhaps even you! This year there will be at least three openings. It's a great opportunity to help Forest Hills and to work side by side with your neighbors.

FHNA GARAGE SALE

The Forest Hills Garage Sale will be Saturday, May 17th. If you're interested in participating, please contact Jacque Bradford at mik2jac@sbcglobal.net. By telling Jacque, you'll be sure to have your house marked on the hundreds of maps that go out that day, telling everyone which houses participate. Our garage sale is always the biggest in the city, with literally hundreds of people scouring the neighborhood for treasures. It won't cost you anything, as the neighborhood association pays for the advertising, maps and any other costs. I've had people ask if they have to give a portion of the profits to the neighborhood association---NO! It's yours! This is just one of the benefits from FHNA---one more reason to pay your dues if you haven't already. ---If you have any questions about dues or aren't sure whether or not you've paid, contact Keith Lerch at keith_w._lerch@hud.gov. Dues are \$25 (plus an extra \$10 for those who don't live on College, Northview or Kessler to cover snow plowing, and run from July to July.

MOM'S NIGHT OUT

Moms' Night Out has started up again. We've been meeting once a month at Binkley's, usually around 8 p.m. If you want to join in on the fun, e-mail Barb Clouse at BBKKClouse@aol.com.

CLEAN YOUR CURBS

As the temperature rises, snow will turn to rain. Many of us didn't finish yard work because of the early snow, and our curbs are filled with leaves. If you have a chance, clean the curbs. Large parts of Forest Hills, particularly around 58th & Guilford, tend to flood if the water can't get to the sewer drains. The basement you save may be your own. Spring is also a great time to trim your trees and shrubs away from the sidewalks so walkers can pass.

COPPER SULFATE

Forest Hills has old drainage pipes, mostly from our homes to the sewers, and occasionally from our gutters and other drains. We also have old trees. If you add a dose of copper sulfate to your drains in the spring, and again in the fall, it helps eliminate tree roots from growing into the drains, and may save you a costly excavation bill. It's sold under dozens of brand names at hardware stores.

MERIDIAN KESSLER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Forest Hills is part of the larger Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association. At least five or six of our residents also serve on the Meridian Kessler Board of Directors, and many more serve on its various committees. MKNA works for Forest Hills on many issues that are simply too expansive for an area of only 250 homes. Because there are 6000 homes in Meridian Kessler, we receive a significant amount of attention from Marion County officials, including IMPD. MKNA's standing committees work on

crime issues, zoning issues, code enforcement issues, local schools and many, many other problems that impact Forest Hills directly. MKNA's tax committee is in almost daily contact with both the Governor and the Legislature regarding the property tax issue. Anyone who's lived here for a while can think of innumerable issues that MKNA has helped Forest Hills solve.

MKNA dues are \$25 a year, running from the date they're paid. Join at the \$50 level, and MKNA will give new members a FREE copy of their magnificent coffee table book; The History & Architecture of Meridian Kessler, which includes a nice section on Forest Hills.

Want to learn more about MKNA? Contact Judy Goldstein, Joni Albright, Novella Nedeff, Steve & Laura Knitter, or Jim Garrettson. Send your dues to MKNA, 526 E. 52nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46205, or drop them off at any of the above neighbors'.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

A fierce battle is still being waged along Guilford Avenue in our first annual Christmas In July contest as residents vie to see who will be the last home still sporting Christmas decorations.

2008 FOREST HILLS DIRECTORY

The 2008 Forest Hills Directory will be available the first week in April for distribution, and will include 24 advertisers. The directory will be similar in size and content as the 2007 directory with a color cover and color advertising at front and back. The history of Forest Hills, a brief description of our

association, our planned activities, and a map of the neighborhood will be included.

Updated neighbors will be included as this directory will now be coming out every year instead of every two years. We hope you use and enjoy this directory and it will become as worn as ours is from all the phone calls to friends and neighbors. If you're new to the neighborhood, and haven't seen a welcome in earlier editions of The Columns, you might contact Bill Melind at 202-0959 to be sure you're included.

FAREWELL ALAVI'S

Rod & Jill Alavi (5730 Wildwood) are leaving Forest Hills to return to their native California.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

The first annual Forest Hills St. Patrick's Day Parade was held from 4:00 a.m. to 4:01 a.m. on March 17th on Guilford. All streets in Forest Hills were painted green for the event. Many thanks to the beautification committee, which had all traces of the event cleaned up by 4:02 a.m.

SCHOOL 84 BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE/ALLEY CLEAN-UP

Lara Knitter is Chairing the School 84 Beautification Committee for MKNA in hopes of planting the greenspace just east of the school. MKNA is Also sponsoring an Alley Clean-Up for neighborhoods in Meridian Kessler with trash laden alleys on April 19th. Anyone interested in volunteering for either project can contact Lara at lknitter@sbcglobal.net.

TAXES

Thanks to all who spent time and effort lobbying for property tax reform, which will become a full reality in 2010. Next on the agenda are the Kernan-Shepard reforms which could bring even greater tax savings to Indianapolis. The county still hasn't decided when the 2007 make-up bill, or the 2008 tax bills will be sent. While the legislature allocated funds to Marion County for 2007/8 tax relief, and gave the county the option of deciding how those funds will be allocated, we won't know our new tax rates until the assessments are approved by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

SPRING FLOWERS

If you're looking for some fabulous spring flowers for your garden, you should consider ordering them from Joy's House. They have an annual sale to help raise money for this non-profit organization and they get the plants and flowers directly from the greenhouse. I have purchased them for several years, and they are always large blooms and in great shape. When I go to pull them out in November they are still in full bloom and looking great!

Joy's House is on Broad Ripple Ave, just west of Keystone. It is an adult day service, where caregivers can take their loved ones during the day, so that they may continue to live at home rather than a nursing home. To order your flowers you may download a form off of their website: www.joyshouse.org. At the upper, right corner where it says "referred by " be sure to write Forest Hills Neighborhood Association. Whoever sells the most flowers wins a fabulous

prize. If it's us, I will put the neighbors names in a hat & draw to see who gets the prize All forms are due in by April 18th. If you have any questions, contact Beth Olson at jeffandbeth1@sbcglobal.net. or by phone at 259-7540.

MERIDIAN KESSLER TWILIGHT PARTY

The Twilight Tour will take place on June 20th and MKNA is very happy to announce we have brought it back in the neighborhood. The target location is 48th Street between Washington and Pennsylvania this year with the theme being "A Walk on the Wild Side." Tickets will be \$50 - please spread the word as we are hoping for good weather and a wonderful turnout. You can make reservations by contacting Jim Garrettson, Joni Albright, the Knitters, or the Goldsteins, or at the MKNA website: www.mkna.org. If you've never been to Twilight, it's one of the great parties in Meridian Kessler, with a catered dinner, dancing under the stars (OK, in a tent), an open bar, a band, a silent auction and two or three homes on tour. The rest of the Home Tour continues on the 21st & 22nd with nine or ten homes on tour. Tickets for the Tour will be available shortly from the same sources.

VOTING

The May Indiana primary election will be held Tuesday, May 9th. Forest Hills votes at the Immaculate Heart of Mary School Gymnasium, which is located at 52nd and Central Avenue, just across College.

HAPPY EASTER